

Remarks

Following the filing of Applicant's appeal brief the non-final Office Action was mailed April 16, 2008. Applicant has requested certain amendments to the specification, drawing and claims; all such amendments are proper, do not introduce new matter and serve to place the application in condition for allowance. The amendments to the specification are for correcting minor typing errors and adding some numerical designations for the purpose of clarity; the amendment to the drawing is to add some previously omitted numerical designations.

With the amendments requested herein, it is believed that all remaining claims should be allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Drawing Amendments

Amendments have been made to correct minor errors in FIG. 6 of the drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action at paragraph 6 indicates that claims 38-43 and 48-51 are allowable over the prior art. The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation this indication of allowability.

Objection to Certain Claims

The Office Action at paragraph 7 indicates that claims 30, 32, 34-35 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of their base and intervening claims.

Claim 30 – This claim has been canceled and claim 28 has been amended to contain all the limitations of canceled claim 30, making claim 28 allowable. Claims 29 and 31, depending from claim 28, should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Claim 32 – This claim, previously depending from claim 28, is now presented in independent format and should now be allowable.

Claims 34-35 – Claim 34, previously depending from claim 28, is now presented in independent format and should now be allowable. Claim 35, depending from claim 34, should thus be allowable.

Claim 47 – This claim has been canceled and claim 44 has been amended to contain all the limitations of canceled claim 47, making claim 44 allowable.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 28, 36-37 and 44-46 as anticipated by Shimizu et al., U.S. 2002/0030924.

Claim 28 – This claim has been amended to contain the limitations of objected to, and now canceled, claim 30, and should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 36-37 – These claims depend from claim 28 and should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 44-46 – Claim 44 has been amended to contain the limitations of objected to, and now canceled, claim 47, and should now be in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 29, 31 and 33 as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. in view of Balster et al., U.S. 5,818,658.

Claims 29, 31 and 33 – These claims depend from claim 28 and should be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the requirements of the Office Action have been attended to herein, and that all the claims have been properly dealt with to present each in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application.

This Response is intended to be a complete response to the final Office Action mailed April 16, 2008. Applicant's attorney wishes to express appreciation for the services of the Examiner on behalf of Applicant, and should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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